



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

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HADDONFIELD: Its Life With Railroads

Shortly after the Lindenwold Hi-Speed Line began daily commuter service, Gertrude Hess suggested it was an auspicious time to compile the history of this clean, new, modern mass transit system. "A good idea," most of her listeners agreed and expected someone to do it. Among those was Marion Pennypacker Tatem (Mrs. Robert J.). The idea persisted, however, and when she heard the subject was still in search of an author, Mrs. Tatem decided to write the story.

Delving into the material outlining proposals for the high speed line, Mrs. Tatem realized the history would be incomplete if she did not begin with the first railroad coming through Haddonfield.

That first railroad was the Camden and Atlantic Railroad. What its builders saw in 1852 was a hot sweltering city at one end of their proposed line and a cool ocean resort — on Absecon Island (Atlantic City) — at the other. Between was 60 miles of comparatively flat land,

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

NEW DATE

SATURDAY — JUNE 17, 1978

TIME: 4:00 P. M.

Bring your picnic hamper and table.
Chairs are available at the Society.

easy to bridge with steel rails. Only the first sixteen miles of the proposed route was at all built up; from Long-A-Coming (Berlin) to Absecon, there were the Waterford and Winslow glassworks, a tavern, a farm house and on Absecon, only four houses.

Despite difficulty in selling stock and obtaining funds, the company opened the first section — from Cooper's Ferry to Long-A-Coming in 1853; and by the

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

If any organization is to survive, it must have an infusion of new members. It must recognize the need to adapt present programs and develop new programs to make membership attractive to younger men and women whose hours are limited by the demands of career or family.

Knowing that this Society has many members whose commitments precluded their taking part in daytime activities, several members joined together to form an evening group. Started in the fall of 1976 and kept going through the efforts of Dianne Snodgrass, Helen Streeter, Ruby Oberst and Evie Grimm, with help from Society officers and trustees, the Evening Committee has grown steadily until today attendance ranges between 12 and 20 members each month.

Members of this Committee have expressed interest in having history-oriented talks. Programs have included films and descriptive tours of some of the rooms and collections in *Greenfield Hall*.

A new group — even within an established organization — takes time to develop its own identity, to establish its own set of goals and to determine how best to accomplish them. In that sense the Evening Committee is on its way. Claire Driscoll, the newly appointed Chairperson of that group, also served as the Chairperson of the Spring Tea sponsored by the Woman's Committee.

Even more encouraging to its founders and supporters is the fact that the Woman's Committee and the Evening Committee had their first joint business meeting late in April. It is planned that this joint meeting will be repeated each year. Arrangements for the June Country Fair were finalized. This year each booth chairperson will have as co-chairperson a member of the Evening Committee.

The 1978 Candlelight Tour will be chaired by Mrs. Ronald Mack, another member of the Evening Committee. This important project has become a community event as well as a vital source of income for our Society.

The Evening Committee is eager to welcome new members and to experiment with fresh ideas. All of us can help them maintain the interest and enthusiasm which they have generated to date.

CAROLINE B. MOODY

HISTORIC VILLAGE FAIR

Since this bulletin went to the printer before "A Country Fair with Mushrooms" was held, evidence suggests it is safe to predict the 16th annual Historic Village Fair sponsored by the Woman's Committee will be one of the most successful.

NORM SHERRERD

We all have our own image of Norm Sherrerd. Members of the Woman's Committee will remember Norm as our first auctioneer — wearing a big straw hat and endowing each object he auctioned with a special quality that made the bidding brisk. Drawing upon his sense of the dramatic and his sound business judgment, Norm suggested that the image of the Fair be upgraded from "Flea Market" to "Historic Village Fair" — more in keeping with the Society and Haddonfield. Guests at the 1975 Candlelight Dinner may remember with a smile the hilariously witty reminiscences of his youth Norm shared with us on that evening.

The Society has lost a good friend who brought a sense of joy, happiness and fun to all he did and to all who knew him.

HADDONFIELD — AN IMPORTANT CENTER

In March of this year, the Haddonfield Public Library celebrated a major milestone — 175 years of continuous library service to residents of the community.

Representatives from every organization in town — the Borough administration, the schools, the churches, the Library Board, service and social clubs— were invited to share in the anniversary program. All did.

To Dianne Hartel Snodgrass went the assignment of writing the "History of Haddonfield in 1803 and Biographical Sketches of the Original Nineteen Subscribers . . ."

Since much of the material was familiar — extensive research had been done for previous quarter-century observances — Dianne decided on a new approach. At least one earlier historian had described Haddonfield as being a "rural village of only 50 families" and wondered why such a community would want a library. Dianne's premise was that Haddonfield was not a sleepy little village but a busy and important center in the midst of an area experiencing rapid growth.

Using family manuscripts and out-of-print histories, minutes of the Library Company, old maps, as well as the standard reference works — Prowell's History, John Clement's Sketches of the First Settlers, Newton Township and more — Dianne has made the reader aware that Haddonfield was, indeed, a burgeoning center and that it was entirely in the character of the town and its residents for a library to be established.

The paper is available at the Society for the modest sum of \$2.00 — a rewarding investment for anyone interested in learning about another phase of Haddonfield's rich history.

THE SOCIETY LAUNCHES A CAREER

While a sophomore at Haddonfield Memorial High School, William E. Reifsteck, Jr., came to the Historical Society hoping to find an opportunity to earn Scouting's highest honor, the Eagle Badge. His initial association — cutting the grass, keeping the grounds in good condition and helping Jack Wood carry out his building maintenance programs, while pleasant, did not seem too promising.

In carrying out one of his assignments, Bill discovered the basement! A close look at the illogical, unplanned juxtaposition of the various articles stored there gave Bill the project he had been searching for: to straighten out, rearrange and classify the disorderly jumble.

It took two summers of work and countless hours after school to sort through all the objects, to identify many of them and to display them in such a manner that the casual visitor or the more knowledgeable collector could see and examine the depth, variety and beauty of some of the collections of plans, cooper's tools and ancient household utensils. Not only did Bill make the basement a fascinating place to visit, but he also prepared a catalog itemizing every article and describing its use.

Needless to say, Bill was awarded the Eagle badge. More than that, his encounter with the *Greenfield Hall* basement sharpened Bill's interest in Museum work as a career. A 1978 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Bill was one of twenty-five students selected for the Cooperstown Graduate Programs given by the New York State Historical Association and The Farmer's Museum.

Historical Society of Haddonfield

Haddonfield, New Jersey

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT No. 118

Haddonfield, N. J.

RAILROADS (Continued from page 1)

next year, the entire line was opened. Always a "seasonal" line, the railroad carried holiday-bound passengers to the ocean and farm produce to the city.

Journey with Mrs. Tatem as she tells of preparations for a day at the beach; of the hazards and thrills of climbing up embankments to cross the tracks. Mrs. Tatem relates the development of the Marlon-Medford Line and its fate; the accident that ruined a 30-year safety record, and the equipment located in Haddonfield needed to maintain the trains. Such terms as "Meadow Mouse" and "down-the-roaders" will be defined.

A new form of transportation, the trolley, cheaper than the railroad, making many more stops and taking much longer, offered the first challenge to the railroad.

The trolley yielded to the bus; railroads to the bus and the automobile. Slowly all evidence of the existence of the railroads vanished. Only the tracks remain, and those radically altered to accommodate the smooth-riding silver cars of the High Speed Line.

A vanished era. Part I of Mrs. Tatem's history is a chapter Society members will surely want to hear and enjoy.

JOIN THE JULY 4th PARADE!

The Society includes in its collection of American flags one huge, 38-star flag which was in use from July 4, 1877 — when Colorado was formerly admitted as a State — until 1890.

As part of the Bicentennial Year observance, several Society members gathered together and carried this enormous flag in the Fourth of July parade. Everyone involved had such a good time it was decided to make "Carrying the Flag" an annual event. Flag bearers are invited to join the 1978 parade.

Specific information about where and when to meet will be announced at the picnic supper. If not then, the newspapers will have all the details.

THE 1978 CANDLELIGHT TOUR — the 13th

As a means of making the October Candlelight Tour more attractive to more people and to accommodate visitors from out of town, this annual Tour will be held in the afternoon and early evening. The date and the hours will be announced at the June 17th picnic.